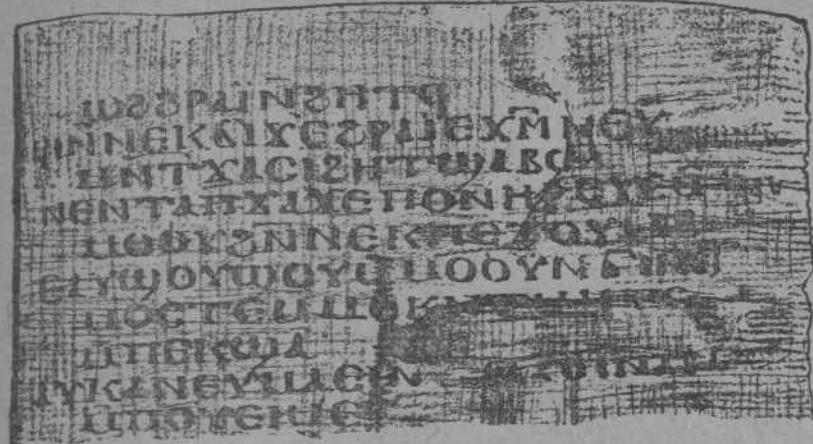


A NEW PSALM—Remarkable Discovery in an Ancient Papyrus.—FOUND IN EGYPT



Fragment of Ancient Coptic Manuscript.

Written by David After His Combat with Goliath, Telling Surely How He Slew the Oppressor of His Race.

BIBLICAL scholars and Orientalists in England are much excited over one of the most remarkable "finds" made in Egypt during recent years. This is a beautifully preserved papyrus, dating, probably, to the sixth century. It is the oldest complete Bible manuscript now in existence. It is now in the hands of translators in the British Museum.

The old papyrus, so far as its contents have been revealed up to the present time, consists of the book of Psalms. It gives a complete text of the Coptic Psalter. Coptic was the language in Christ's time of the descendants of the ancient Egyptians. This is not only the oldest manuscript which has come out of the East containing any part of the Psalter, but it is the only complete book of Psalms in existence written in one of the ancient dialects.

An extraordinary fact about this newly discovered document is that it contains the 151st Psalm, in regard to which a vigorous controversy has raged in Biblical and theological circles for many years. This 151st Psalm is not to be found in the ordinary Bible, because, from its nature and history, theologians agreed some years ago that it was a fraud.

Here, however, in the most ancient document which has come out of the East, containing any part of the Psalter, is the 151st Psalm complete, with everything to indi-

cate that it is genuine and that shortly after the death of Christ this Psalm, which Biblical scholars had agreed was spurious, was treated with all reverence and dignity.

There are only one hundred and fifty psalms in the Bible as ordinarily used. There is, however, another, known to biblical students as the apocryphal 151st psalm. If the recently discovered manuscript proves this to be authentic a new psalm is really given to the people.

The 151st Psalm is written by David after his combat with Goliath. In it he tells how he slew the oppressor of his race. It is brief, but vigorous and beautiful. It is printed elsewhere on this page.

Dr. E. A. Wallis Budge, keeper of the Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities in the British Museum at present, has the translation of the Coptic Psalter in hand. Dr. Budge, who is one of the most eminent Egyptologists in Europe, has made, in the original Coptic, a copy of the new Psalter together with copies of the Homilies found in the same box, and these are to be shortly published by Kegan Paul, Trenchard & Co., in an edition that is limited to 350 copies. The title page to this remarkable work describes the new papyrus as "the earliest known Coptic Psalter, the text in the dialect of Upper Egypt, edited from the unique papyrus Codex Oriental, 5,000 in the British Museum."

THE NEW PSALM OF DAVID.

1. I was small among my brethren, and youngest in my father's house. I tended my father's sheep.
2. My hands formed a musical instrument and my fingers tuned a psaltery.
3. And who shall tell my Lord? The Lord himself, he himself hears.
4. He sent forth his angel and took me from my father's sheep, and he anointed me with the oil of his anointing.
5. My brothers were handsome and tall; but the Lord did not take pleasure in them.
6. I went forth to meet the Philistine; and he cursed me by his idols.
7. But I drew his own sword and beheaded him, and removed reproach from the children of Israel.

By Professor Hyvernat, Professor of Coptic in the Catholic University at Washington, D. C.

To the Editor of the Journal:

I saw myself in London last July this Coptic Psalter. I do not think it is quite as old as Dr. Budge says. In my opinion, after a cursory examination of the writing, material, etc., this codex cannot be older than the seventh century, and might be as late as the tenth century. It is the most perfect papyrus codex I ever saw with original binding, too.

To my regret, I had not the leisure to examine the text itself. I would like to see the publication with fac-similes before I pass a definite judgment on the age and importance of the Mss. Coptic Versions in different dialects (Sahidic, Akhmimic, Bohairic, etc.) may be as old as the second century.

Papyrus was used for Mss. as late as the tenth, even the eleventh century, to my knowledge. Dates appear as early as 884 A. D. As this one has no date, it might be a reason to assign it to the ninth century.

H. HYVERNAT,

Professor of Coptic and other ancient languages in the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.

The description and history of the papyrus given by Dr. Budge in this forthcoming work are very interesting. He describes it as worthy to take rank "among the greatest of the great finds which have been made in Egypt during the last few years." Dr. Budge says about two years ago, while certain Egyptian peasants were

digging up and carrying away the light soil which is so much valued for "top dressing" by the farmers from the ruins of an ancient Coptic church and monastery in Upper Egypt, that their tools struck upon a rectangular slab of stone.

An examination showed that this slab formed the cover of a stone box or coffin

which had been firmly fastened in the ground.

After some difficulty this slab was removed and a parcel of books, carefully wrapped in coarse linen cloth, was found lying beneath it. The books were two in number and though written upon papyrus they were found to be bound in stout

leather covers after the manner of European books in general.

"That these volumes had lain in the box for several hundreds of years," says Dr. Budge, "there is no possibility of doubting, but there is no way of ascertaining the exact period when they were first placed in it. It is the opinion of some that the church and monastery which once stood upon the site where the books were found had been in ruins for some centuries, and the general appearance of the place supports this view. There is no reason for supposing that the books were buried along with the body of any ecclesiastical official or monk, for it is certain that they had been expressly written for use in the church of the monastery, and that they were not the private property of any member of it."

"It would seem that at some period of trouble or persecution an official of the church carefully prepared the box in the event of its ever being necessary to hide books, and that when the need arose he wrapped these volumes in linen with the greatest care, and laid them in it. Their wonderful state of preservation testifies to the wisdom of the choice of a hiding place and the thoroughness with which he carried out the self-appointed task."

"That they were believed by him to be books of no ordinary kind is evident, and

though it is early yet to pronounce a definite opinion upon the value of their contents, it seems clear that the discovery of a complete copy of the Psalter in the dialect of Upper Egypt, and of a volume containing ten complete Homilies by Fathers of the Monophysite Church, for such in fact are the contents of the book—finds far to rank among the greatest of the great "finds" which have been made in Egypt during the last few years.

"The matter of dating the Psalter is one of considerable difficulty, for we have no fixed points in Coptic palaeography to serve for purposes of comparison. The shape and size and general appearance of the pages of the older portion in every respect suggest that the volume cannot have been written after the end of the seventh century of our era, but it seems to me that the date when it was written lies nearer the beginning than the end of that century; it may, indeed, quite well be placed at the end of the sixth century."

"When the book had been in use for some time it was put aside for some purpose, probably because of its defective condition, and it was not brought into use again until after it had been repaired and rebound; the style of the covers, I am informed, suggests the eleventh or twelfth century as the period of the general repair of the book."

THE U. S. AT PARIS IN 1900

Lots of Room for the American Section at the Next Great World's Exposition.

PARIS, Oct. 15, 1897.—Major Moses P. Handy, who has been in Paris for the past three weeks, has not obtained the five hundred thousand square feet of space at the Paris Exposition of 1900 which it was reported he applied for, but he will be allotted considerably over two hundred thousand square feet, and this allowance will be amply sufficient for an adequate display of United States industry in its manifold branches.

Said Major Handy to a correspondent of the Journal: "I have just had a meeting with Director-General Delaunay-Belleville, and I have obtained from him notable increases in the amount of space that the French management of the exposition had set apart for us prior to my arrival here. When I present my report to Congress, it will be seen that the increase of space amounts to close upon 75 per cent of what had been set down to the United States. This means something considerable, especially when the fact of the relatively small size of the exposition is taken into consideration. I have applications for space that would enable me to distribute at once all the space allotted, so that the American section of the Paris Exposition will undoubtedly be a success."

"We shall be adequately represented in the Fine Arts Department. France is organizing a great retrospective exhibition of fine arts during the nineteenth century. I cannot tell yet what space will be allowed American retrospective fine arts, for no assignments have yet been made to foreign nations."

"I have made several suggestions to the French Commissioners, and many of them, in fact, all, have met with their approval. They had not made any allowance of space for railroad exhibits. Should there be no room for these in the limits of the exposition proper, space will be granted us in the Vincennes annex, where I hope also to be able to obtain considerable space for our American harvesting exhibits. In the Department of Forestry, the United States could make an excellent showing, and the French Commissioners are prepared to give us a great opportunity in this direction, although they had hitherto made no preparations for such exhibitions."

"On the whole, our treatment at the hands of the French officials has been most liberal. I have impressed upon these gentlemen the fact that the United States intends to make a great display in all departments in 1900. Our country will play no secondary part in the exposition on an equal, if not on a more important, level than the leading European powers. Hitherto, at international exhibitions in Europe, we have been accustomed to see ourselves classed with the secondary powers, such as Greece, Holland, Sweden, etc. Now we shall come to the fore and show ourselves in our true light. The necessary space being at our disposal, our exhibition in 1900 will be second to none. In many departments we shall create a sensation; a great number of our displays will come as a revelation, not only to France, but to other European countries, the inhabitants of which are not acquainted with the enormous resources of the United States and the wonderful impulse of her industry and manufactures."

Answers to Journal Readers Who Want to Be Polite.

<p>INQUIRER:</p> <p>At the end of a dinner napkins should never be neatly folded and placed on the table.</p>	<p>E. B.:</p> <p>During a meal the napkin should be laid smoothly on the lap.</p>	<p>INQUIRER:</p> <p>This is the way the napkin should be left on the table at the end of a dinner.</p>	<p>ONE WHO WANTS TO KNOW:</p> <p>Large white damask napkins are preferable for dinner use.</p>	
<p>SUBURBANITE:</p> <p>Under no circumstances should the napkin ever be tucked in the neck.</p>	<p>The USE and ABUSE of the Napkin, the Finger Bowl and the Toothpick.</p> <p>GOOD table manners form the rudimentary course in the study of what is proper and polite. They are one of the most important outward and visible signs of a well-bred person. One knows almost by instinct that the knife should not be used to eat with; that elbows should not rest upon the table, and that soup should not be swallowed with a gurgling sound. But there are many table accessories the proper use of which is more or less puzzling to the average person.</p> <p>Just how to treat a napkin in the most correct way possible is not always clearly understood. One should bear in mind, first of all, that the napkin is not a towel, and should not be used as such.</p> <p>The napkin should never be conspicuous. It should never be folded in fancy shapes when first put on the table, but placed at the right of the plate and folded so that it holds the dinner roll or a square, thick piece of bread.</p> <p>At the beginning of the dinner the napkin should be laid smoothly over the lap, and there it should remain throughout the meal. When it is necessary to wipe the mouth just the corner of the napkin should be used. But with well-bred persons it is never necessary. Napkin rings are things of the past. They should never appear upon the table. When a clean napkin was regarded as a luxury and napkins were changed but twice a week, then the napkin ring was, perhaps, a necessity. Now, when a fresh, clean napkin is part of every well regulated meal, the service of the napkin ring is no longer required. Napkins should never be tucked in the neck or in the front of a bodice or waistcoat. When the dinner is over, the napkin must never be carefully folded and then placed upon the table. Instead, it is left beside the plate in a neat, careless heap. Don't drop it on the floor. At home dinners the napkin is frequently used in connection with many dishes. Baked potatoes, for instance, may always be served wrapped in a napkin and always on a warm platter. The platter should be passed to each person present and the potato taken from the platter and put on the individual plate. Corn, when served on the cob, should also be wrapped in a napkin.</p> <p>Tooth picks, in public, are an abomination. Letters are continually received asking whether it is proper to use a tooth-pick? Should tooth-picks be placed on the table in glasses? Should they be passed on a tray, &c.? Never, under any circumstances. The table is, as intimated above, not the place to make one's toilet. Shun the toothpick in public.</p> <p>The finger bowl is notoriously misused. Some people, to all appearances, regard the finger bowl as a wash basin. When dessert is served they should be brought upon the table, each resting upon a plate, which is partially covered by a doily. The plate is for fruit. The doily is strictly ornamental. It is not a napkin. The hands must not be wiped upon it. When the finger bowl is lifted from the plate to the table, the doily is removed with it, and the bowl and doily set to one side—the right.</p> <p>After the fruit use the finger bowl.</p>		<p>YOUNG WIFE:</p> <p>One of the best ways to serve baked potatoes is to wrap them in napkins.</p>	<p>ANNA B.:</p> <p>Never attempt to wash the hands in the finger bowl.</p>
<p>ANNA B.:</p> <p>The correct way to use a finger bowl is to daintily dip the fingers in the bowl, just touching the water.</p>			<p>UPPER WEST SIDE:</p> <p>This is the way the finger bowl should look when it comes on the table.</p>	<p>UPPER WEST SIDE:</p> <p>The doily and finger bowl together are lifted off the plate and put on the table when the fruit is served.</p>
<p>TO SEVERAL CORRESPONDENTS:</p> <p>In public toothpicks are always an abomination.</p>	<p>IGNORANT:</p> <p>In leaving the dining room, after a dinner, the ladies always precede the gentlemen.</p>	<p>E. C. MARTIN:</p> <p>Trying to cover the using of a toothpick by a napkin is almost as bad as using the toothpick openly.</p>	<p>JOURNAL READER:</p> <p>The doily must never be lifted from the table. See above.</p>	
<p>SOUTHERNER:</p> <p>Not even a pretty girl should ever eat corn off the cob before people.</p>	<p>FRANK H.:</p> <p>Shoes should never be polished in public. One's own house is the place for this operation.</p>	<p>JOURNAL READER:</p> <p>The doily is not a fruit napkin. It should never be used for the hands.</p>	<p>JOURNAL READER:</p> <p>The doily must never be lifted from the table. See above.</p>	

HOW IT FEELS TO BE X RAYED

This Man's Skin Has Turned a Nut Brown Color from Repeated Exposures.

IT IS not safe to fool with the X ray, any more than it is with a buzz-saw. Harmless enough in appearance and interesting as a scientific phenomenon, yet its effect upon the human body exposed to it for a great length of time would, in the end, probably prove deadly. Such is the testimony of Edward Bayliss, manager of an X ray exhibit, who has exposed his body to a powerful ray daily in the course of his business. Bayliss's assistant, Giles Martin, is in bed, suffering from nervous prostration, as the result of repeated exposure to the ray.

Mr. Bayliss, in answer to a reporter's question as to how it feels to be X-rayed, said:

"I can't explain the sensation. A peculiar warmth penetrates my body; yet it is hardly a warmth, for I am cold afterward. There seems to be a quick vibration of the molecules of my body. My theory is that they are being disintegrated. It is as if myriads of infinitesimal battering rams were at work in the system, tearing its atoms asunder."

"Look at my hands. Are they not as brown as a farmer's who has passed the summer in the harvest field? Yet three months ago they were as white as those of any man who does indoor work; in fact, whiter than the majority, for my skin is very fair."

The hands were brown, a nut brown. The appearance was more like tanned leather than skin which had been turned by the sun's rays. The touch also was as leather. Around the second finger of the left hand a bandage was wound.

"What's that—a cut?" was asked.

"No, it's a sore. Several physicians have looked at it and they cannot tell me its nature. My theory is that the X-ray has destroyed the small veins and the sore is caused by blood not flowing freely and the finger not having nourishment. As for the tanned skin on my hands, I believe the tissue has been destroyed. The hands are like leaves on a tree after the frost of Autumn has nipped them."

"What effect has the X-ray on your heart?"

"Neither can I describe that," was the reply. "My heart seems to flutter and I feel slightly oppressed. I shall not make that experiment again, for I am convinced it is dangerous."

"Is your skin brown in other places?"

"Yes, small spots of this dead shade have appeared in places on my back and my arm."

"What do you think in a general way of the X ray?"

"I don't know what to think, and I am a skilled electrician. It is a mysterious force, and perhaps it is for the detriment of mankind that it has been unchained. No one understands it, and no one pretends to understand it."

"With your experience how long do you think it safe to stand before the fluoroscope?"

"I suppose from thirty seconds to a minute."

Often, Mr. Bayliss said, the exposure to the rays causes him to feel sick and his face to turn pale and thick beads of perspiration to appear on his forehead.